

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

cardinal bishops, Piero Corsini, the Cardinal of Florence, who (as we saw) had been raised to the cardinalate by Urban V in 1370. Gregory XI had made him Bishop of Porto, from which he is frequently styled the "Cardinal of Porto." He was a man of great ability and little moral courage. Francesco Tebaldeschi was a Roman of humble birth, who had been, like the aristocratic Corsini, one of the cardinals of Urban V ; his title was of Santa Sabina, but he was always spoken of as the "Cardinal of St. Peter's," from his being archpriest of the basilica. He was an old man, broken down in health and tortured by gout. Jacopo Orsini, a member of the great Guelf house, was the only other Roman in the Sacred College. He was dean of the cardinal deacons, a comparatively young man of doubtful probity and of great ambition. While ostensibly leaning towards the French faction, he was secretly himself aiming at the tiara, counting upon the support of the Roman nobles and populace. The remaining member of this group was the Archbishop of Milan, Simone Brossano, a man learned in canon law, who had been promoted to the Sacred College by Gregory XI under the tide of SS. Giovanni e Paolo on the Caelian Hill.

In addition to these sixteen cardinals, there were seven members of the Sacred College absent from Rome. Six of these, including the brother of Urban V, Anglico de Grimoard (the best of the French cardinals), were at Avignon. The seventh, Jean de la Grange, the Benedictine "Cardinal of Amiens," a wealthy and worldly monk, a subtle politician of great influence with the French King, had been the chief papal representative at the Congress of Sarzana, and was now at Pisa.

The one member of the Sacred College to whom Catherine, and all who looked for the salvation of Israel, turned was Pedro de Luna, who had ultimately supported the late Pope in restoring the See to Rome, where he apparently contemplated passing the rest of his life, as he had built himself a palace, was busily restoring his titular church of Santa Maria in Cosmedin, and had even chosen his place of burial in San Lorenzo. A man of blameless life, vast learning, great charity, and apparently sincere